MINUTES
Educational Affairs Committee
November 29, 1990

The committee met at 12:00 noon in the Conner Hall Conference Room. Present were: Ileana Arias, Dan Dervartanian, Peter Dress, Delmer Dunn, Karen Kuers, Stan Longman, Sharan Merriam, Bruce Shutt, and Betty Whitten. Also present were Bryndis Jenkins, Susan L. Jones, and David Coker. The chair, Dr. Whitten, presided at the meeting.

The minutes of the November 8, 1990 meeting were approved with corrections.

Dr. Whitten thanked Ms. Jones for the material she had prepared and sent to committee members covering the policies of various public universities on discrimination based on sexual orientation. The chair then recognized Dr. David Coker and asked him to indicate the position of President Charles Knapp on the question. Dr. Coker indicated that President Knapp was not in favor of including the matter in the university's non-discrimination policy. He did indicate that Dr. Knapp would approve a policy that would cover matters internal to the university. The policy should have adequate provisions for redressing any grievance related to sexual orientation and should tell students, faculty, and staff where to go for redressing grievances.

Dr. Dress asked whether a statement encouraging the Board of Regents to include sexual orientation in the system's non-discrimination policy would be a good addition. Ms. Jenkins indicated that the board faced the same legal problems of the University in that the matter would have to be addressed through the legislature. Dr. Coker expressed a preference for a policy that would not involve the Board of Regents or the legislature at this point.

Ms. Jones and Ms. Jenkins then passed out a proposed policy based closely upon a policy at The University of North Carolina -- Chapel Hill and a policy from the University of Texas at Austin. There was considerable discussion about both policies. Committee members seemed to prefer a policy that would blend portions of each statement. Ms. Jenkins indicated that she would prepare another draft and get it to committee members no later than December 7.

Dr. Whitten then asked the committee to examine a letter that she had recently received from President Knapp regarding the monitoring of the academic progress of student athletes. The letter supported the monitoring but asked the committee to include in its charge the monitoring of whether athletes were required by the institution to meet requirements beyond those of other students. The chair asked Dr. Dunn to review the history of the monitoring of student-athletes' academic progress. He reviewed the approximate five-year history of the program, designed to increase the likelihood that the student side of the student-athlete be kept in proper perspective. After discussion, the chair indicated that the letter would be submitted to the Athlete Academic Review Subcommittee for a recommendation back to the full committee.

The committee then discussed two proposals related to foreign language instruction. One would require all students who intended to study a foreign language at the University to take a placement test prior to taking a course if they intended to take a language that they had studied in high school. Another clarifies language exemptions and credit at the University. The chair asked Dr. Dunn to draft the proposal on testing in the usual format the committee considers policy changes prior to the next meeting.

The chair then asked Dr. Dress for a report on matters that had been assigned to the committee by the Executive Committee of the University Council. Dr. Dress indicated that the committee had assigned the question of University policy on requiring physical education classes to the Educational Affairs Committee. The Executive Committee also assigned to the committee the question of whether the University Council should endorse the emphasis on teaching covered in Dr. Knapp's State-of-the-University speech in October.

The committee set its next meeting for 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Monday December 10. The committee adjourned at 2:00 p.m.